



2016 DEER HUNTING INFORMATION AND ON-LINE/TOLL FREE TELEPHONE CHECK IN SYSTEM

MANDATORY DEER HARVEST REPORTING

Successful deer hunters must report their harvest by 10 p.m. on the day of kill using our automated check-in system, either by telephone (toll-free) at **1-866-452-4325 (1-866-IL-CHECK)** or online at www.dnr.illinois.gov/Hunting/Pages/HarvestReporting.aspx. For your convenience, this information is also printed on the front of your deer permit. *Note to cell phone users:* The most common reason hunters are unable to complete their harvest report is because of a poor cell phone connection. Once you have properly tagged your deer, wait until you are out of the woods and receive a clear, strong cell phone connection before placing your call.

Immediately upon kill and before the deer is moved, transported or field dressed the hunter must cut out the designated notch on the leg tag to invalidate it, and the tag must be attached and properly sealed. The deer must remain whole (or field dressed) until it has been checked in. When reporting, hunters will be asked a number of questions to help biologists manage Illinois' deer population. Before checking in your deer, please look over the questions listed on the back of your permit and be prepared to answer them. Upon completion, hunters will be given a 10-character confirmation number to verify that they checked in their harvest. The confirmation number must be written onto the leg tag in the appropriate boxes, so please have a pencil or pen handy when making the call (an extra fine tipped permanent marker works best). If the condition of the tag precludes writing on the tag in the appropriate space (i.e., bloody, etc.), the confirmation number must be written elsewhere on the tag, or onto a piece of paper and attached to the deer along with the temporary harvest tag. The tag and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer, the deer has been checked in, and final processing is completed. In instances where deer are checked in while the hunter is still afield, the deer may not be dismembered while afield beyond quartering the animal. If quartered, all parts of the carcass (except the entrails removed during field dressing) must be transported together and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass. Evidence of sex is:

A) for a buck: head with antlers attached to carcass, or attached testicle, scrotum, or penis,

B) for a doe: head attached to carcass, or attached udder (mammary) or vulva.

If the head/antlers are left with a taxidermist, the confirmation number must be recorded on the "head tag" portion of the permit and both must remain with the deer. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the temporary harvest tag (leg tag) with confirmation number must remain with the deer while it is processed, and until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer. Persons delivering deer/parts of deer to a tanner must supply the tanner with either their deer permit number, their confirmation number, or written certification by the person from whom the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.

2016 DEER HUNTING SEASONS

Archery: Oct. 1 - Jan. 15, 2017 in Cook, DuPage, Lake and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47. In all other counties and that portion of Kane County west of State Route 47 the archery deer season is Oct. 1 through Jan. 15 EXCEPT archery hunting is CLOSED for the two seasons of firearm hunting. Archery deer hunting is OPEN during the muzzleloader-only season, youth firearm season, and the late-winter & CWD deer seasons (Dec. 29, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017 & Jan. 13 - 15, 2017).

Youth Firearm: October 8 - 10.

Firearm: A full season permit allows hunting Nov. 18 - 20 and Dec. 1 - 4. A second season only permit allows hunting Dec. 1 - 4.

Muzzleloader-Only: Dec. 9 - 11. You may also use a muzzleloader permit with a muzzleloader during the second firearm season on Dec. 1 - 4.

Permit: Before hunting, you must sign your permit. Your deer permit shall be carried on your person while hunting.

Bag Limit: One deer per legally authorized permit. No hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than 2 antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. For purposes of this bag limit, deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates fall within the same 12-month period that begins July 1. A hunter in possession of an either-sex permit after having harvested 2 antlered deer during a year may only use the permit to harvest an antlerless deer. Subject to this restriction, an either-sex permit holder is allowed to take a deer with or without antlers during the legal season. An antlerless-only permit holder is allowed to take only a deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than 3 inches long during the legal season.

License: In addition to your deer permit, you must have a valid Illinois Hunting, Sportsmen, Youth or Apprentice License unless you are:

- A person who is disabled and able to show proof of disability in the form of one of the following:
 - a) A State disabled person I.D. card (available from the Secretary of State through the drivers license examining station) showing a P2, P2A, H2, or H2A disability.
 - b) Veterans disability card (at least 10% service related); available from local Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs offices.
- An Illinois resident on active duty and on leave from the U.S. Armed Forces.
- A landowner or tenant residing on farm lands, or the children, parents, brothers and sisters permanently residing on such lands, and hunting only the lands resided on.

ILLINOIS LAW REQUIRES NON-RESIDENTS TO HAVE A NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE IN ADDITION TO A PERMIT AND HABITAT STAMP.

Habitat Stamp: Before any person 16 years of age or older takes, attempts to take, or pursues a deer, he or she shall first obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Disabled veterans and former prisoners of war shall not be required to obtain State Habitat Stamps. Any person who obtained a Lifetime license before January 1, 1993, shall not be required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Licenses/stamps are available at IDNR Direct Automated License System agents, by phone at 1-888-6PERMIT or www.dnr.illinois.gov.

FIREARM OWNERS I.D. CARD (Issued by Illinois State Police): Regardless of who owns the gun, anyone who has a firearm, including muzzleloaders, or firearm ammunition in their possession must have in their possession a valid Firearm Owners' I.D. (F.O.I.D.) Card unless he or she is: a) A licensed out-of-state-sportsman hunting in Illinois, or b) Under the age of 21 and under the immediate control of a parent, guardian, or responsible adult who has in their possession a valid F.O.I.D. Card. F.O.I.D. Card Information 217-782-7980.

- Hunters shall not have in their possession, while in the field during deer season, any deer permit issued to another person.
 - It is illegal to use salt, corn or any other kind of bait. An area is considered as baited during the presence of and for 10 consecutive days following the removal of bait. NOTE: Feeding deer is also illegal, although there are certain exemptions such as food plots. Consult the hunting digest for more complete information.
 - Permits will not be reissued in circumstances involving deer that are found to be diseased or infected from old injuries to the point that the meat is inedible. Legal disposal of unfit deer taken shall be the responsibility of the hunter.
 - In those counties where deer hunting is permitted, it is unlawful to hunt or trap any species protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, unless the blaze orange clothing required for deer hunters is worn during the firearm deer seasons.
 - It is unlawful to take or attempt to take deer:
 - a. in excess of the legal limit.
 - b. during closed season.
 - c. by use of dogs*, horses, automobiles, aircraft, boats or other vehicles.
- ***This does not prohibit the use of a leashed dog to track wounded deer.***
- Totally white white-tailed deer are protected by Illinois Law and are illegal to kill.

2016 DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS



ARCHERY



Hunting Hours:

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. No bow and arrow device shall be carried with the arrow in the nocked position during hours when deer hunting is unlawful.

Hunting Devices:

The only legal hunting devices to take, or attempt to take deer are:

1. Longbows, recurve bows, or compound bows with minimum pull of 40 pounds at some point within a 28-inch draw. Minimum arrow length is 20 inches. Any mechanical device capable of maintaining a drawn or partially drawn position on a vertical bow without the hunter exerting full string tension is illegal.
2. Crossbows, so long as one or more of the following conditions is met:

- a) If the user is a person age 62 and older with a valid photo ID containing proof of age; or
- b) If the user is a disabled person to whom the Department has issued a permit to use a crossbow (for information call the Office of Law Enforcement at 217-782-6431; a physician's certification is required); or
- c) If the date is between December 5, 2016 and January 15, 2017 (both inclusive).

Broadheads must be used while archery deer hunting. Broadheads may have fixed or expandable cutting surfaces, but they must be a minimum 7/8 inch in diameter when fully opened. Broadheads with fixed cutting surfaces must be metal or flint-, chert-, or obsidian-knapped; broadheads with expandable cutting surfaces must be metal. All other hunting devices, including electronic arrow tracking devices utilizing radio telemetry, are illegal.

Hunting Area:

All Illinois counties. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant. For property only hunting permit holders, the hunting area is all of the land owned, leased or rented in counties open for deer hunting. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid as a basis for obtaining a property only hunting permit.

Clothing:

No special clothing is required, EXCEPT during any gun deer seasons that are open concurrently with the archery season. These include the Muzzleloader Season (Dec. 09 - 11), the Youth Season (Oct. 08 - 10), the Late Winter/CWD deer seasons (Dec. 29, 2016 - Jan. 1, 2017 & Jan. 13 - 15, 2017), and on those IDNR sites that allow archery deer hunting during the firearm deer season (Nov. 18 - 20; Dec. 1 - 4). Any person attempting to take or taking deer by use of a bow and arrow shall wear, when in the field, a cap and upper outer garment of solid blaze orange color, displaying a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange material in all Illinois counties open to those seasons.

It is unlawful:

- a) to carry any firearm or sidearm while hunting deer with a bow and arrow unless on private land.
- b) for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by bow and arrow to further participate with bow and arrow in any deer hunting party.
- c) to drive deer, or participate in a deer drive, on all Department owned or managed properties. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within archery range of one or more participating hunters.

FIREARM, MUZZLELOADER-ONLY and YOUTH

Hunting Hours:

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Persons hunting deer must have gun unloaded during hours when deer hunting is unlawful. For muzzleloaders, a gun is considered unloaded if the percussion cap is removed; or if the prime powder is removed from frizzen pan with frizzen open and hammer all the way down; or if prime powder is removed from flashpan and wheel is unwound; or if prime powder is removed and match is not lit; or if the battery is removed from the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader.

Legal Firearms:

- Shotguns, loaded with slugs only, of not larger than 10 nor smaller than 20 gauge, not capable of firing more than three consecutive slugs; or
- Single or double barreled muzzleloading rifles of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least 16 inches in length;
- Centerfire revolvers or centerfire single-shot handguns of .30 caliber or larger with a minimum barrel length of 4 inches.

Legal Ammunition:

- For shotguns and muzzleloading firearms, the minimum size of the projectile shall be .44 caliber. A wad or sleeve is not considered a projectile or a part of the projectile.
- For handguns, a bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a case length not exceeding 1.4 inches, or a straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger, both of which must be available as a factory load with the published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. There is no case length limit for straight-walled cartridges.
- Non-expanding, military-style full metal jacket bullets cannot be used to harvest white-tailed deer; only soft point or expanding bullets (including copper/copper-alloy rounds designed for hunting) are legal ammunition.

Additional Muzzleloading Regulations:

- A muzzleloading firearm is defined as a firearm that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end.
- Only black powder or a "black powder substitute" such as Pyrodex may be used. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved blackpowder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms specifically designed for their use.
- Percussion caps (shotgun primers are legal percussion caps), wheellock, matchlock or flint type ignition only may be used, except the Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA) electronic ignition shall be legal to use.

Hunting Area:

The specific county or hunt area for which the permit is issued. Permission to hunt on private property must be obtained from the property owner or tenant. For property only hunting (landowner) permit holders, the hunting area is all of the land owned, leased or rented in the counties open for deer hunting. A hunting rights lease, or other non-agricultural lease, is not valid as a basis for obtaining a property only hunting permit.

Clothing:

Any person attempting to take or taking deer by use of a firearm shall wear, when in the field, a cap and upper outer garment of solid blaze orange color, displaying a minimum of 400 square inches of blaze orange material.

Special Notes:

- During the Youth Deer Season, every youth hunter is required to be accompanied at all times by a non-hunting parent/guardian or responsible adult who possesses a valid Firearm Owners Identification (F.O.I.D.) Card.
- Unfilled property only hunting (landowner) firearm deer permits are valid during the Muzzleloader Season (with a muzzleloading rifle) and the Late-Winter/Special CWD seasons (if open in that county).
- Any unfilled firearm, muzzleloader or youth permits *except* special hunt area permits that were valid during the previous firearm, muzzleloader-only or youth seasons are valid during the late-winter antlerless-only firearm season (if open in that county), but the holder may only harvest antlerless deer.

It is unlawful:

- a) to possess a rifle in the field during gun deer season EXCEPT muzzleloading rifles used by deer hunters only. No person may have in his possession any firearm not authorized by administrative rule for a specific hunting season when taking deer.
- b) for any person having taken the legal limit of deer by firearm to further participate with a firearm in any deer hunting party.
- c) to drive deer, or participate in a deer drive, on all Department owned or managed properties. A deer drive is defined as a deliberate action by one or more persons (whether armed or unarmed) whose intent is to cause deer to move within firearm range of one or more participating hunters.

For more information contact:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Springfield, Permit Office	217-782-7305
Springfield Law Enforcement Office	217-782-6431
Springfield Wildlife Office	217-782-6384
Hunter Safety Education Classes	1-800-832-2599
DNR TTY	217-782-9175